

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Headquarters

Washington, DC 20546-0001



September 14, 2006

Reply to Attn of:

General Law Practice Group

TO: Distribution

FROM: Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official

SUBJECT: Determination Regarding Attendance by NASA Employees at the Hispanic Engineering & Information Technology and Science Spectrum Awards Banquet in Baltimore, MD, on September 15, 2006

The Hispanic Engineering & Information Technology (HEIT) magazine and Science Spectrum magazine will host an awards banquet on September 15, 2006, at the Baltimore Convention Center in Baltimore, MD at 7 p.m. The banquet will honor HEIT's 100 Most Important Hispanics in Technology and Business, including Mark León, the Assistant Chief of the Education Division at NASA Ames Research Center. Honorees are chosen based on their leadership and outstanding work in the field of technology. The list includes many of the nation's highest achieving Hispanic executives, managers, and researchers in industry, government, and academia.

The event will be attended by representatives of industry, academia, Federal agencies, and members of the public. The cost of attendance is \$150 per person. Approximately 400 or more people are expected to attend the event. I find that this event meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 CFR § 2635.204(g).

I have determined that free attendance of NASA employees is in the best interests of the Agency because it will further NASA programs and operations. The event will provide an opportunity for NASA officials to discuss the NASA Vision for Space Exploration and the Agency's programs with other attendees. Accordingly, NASA employees whose duties do not substantially affect the sponsors may accept an invitation for free attendance to the event for themselves and their invited spouses or guests.

NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect the sponsors, such as by way of procurement duties, should seek an individual determination pursuant to 5 CFR § 2635.205(g)(3)(i) regarding participation in this event from their local ethics counselor.


R. Andrew Falcon